

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated October 5, 2005. Applicants have amended claims 1, 6, 9, 12, 14, 15, 16, 18, 21, 23, 25, 29, 32, 35 and 37, and canceled claims 11, 19 and 30. Claims 1-4, 6-10, 12-18, 20-29 and 31-45 are now pending.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 5, 10 and 12-14 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Finlayson (US 4,385,219) and rejected claims 3, 4, 18, 20, 26, 27, 29, 31 and 38-45 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Finlayson. The Examiner objected to claims 6-9, 11, 15-17, 19, 21-25, 28, 30 and 32-37 as being dependent upon a rejected claim, but indicated that these claims recite allowable subject matter.

Applicants do not acquiesce to any of the rejections advanced by the Examiner. However, in the interest of expediting the current application to immediate issuance, Applicants have amended all pending independent claims to recite subject matter that the Examiner indicated as being allowable. Specific claims are discussed in detail below.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of dependent claim 11 and intervening claim 5. Therefore, claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

Claim 6 has been amended to be in independent form, including the limitations formerly recited in claims 1 and 5. Therefore, claim 6 is in condition for allowance.

Claim 5 has been canceled.

Claim 9 has been amended to be in independent form, including the limitations formerly recited in claim 1. Therefore, claim 9 is in condition for allowance.

Claims 12 and 14 have been amended to depend upon claim 1.

Claim 15 has been amended to be in independent form, including the limitations formerly recited in claims 5 and 1. Therefore, claim 15 is in condition for allowance.

Claim 16 has been amended to be in independent form, including the limitations formerly recited in claim 1. Therefore, claim 16 is in condition for allowance.

Claim 18 has been amended to include the limitations formerly recited in claim 19. Therefore, claim 18 is in condition for allowance.

Claim 21 has been amended to be in independent form, including the limitations formerly recited in claims 20 and 18. Therefore, claim 21 is in condition for allowance.

Claim 23 has been amended to be in independent form, including the limitations formerly recited in claim 18. Therefore, claim 23 is in condition for allowance.

Claim 25 has been amended to be in independent form, including the limitations formerly recited in claim 18. Therefore, claim 25 is in condition for allowance.

Claim 29 has been amended to include the limitations formerly recited in claim 30. Therefore, claim 29 is in condition for allowance.

Claim 30 has been canceled.

Claim 32 has been amended to be in independent form, including the limitations formerly recited in claims 31 and 29. Therefore, claim 32 is in condition for allowance.

Claim 35 has been amended to be in independent form, including the limitations formerly recited in claim 29. Therefore, claim 35 is in condition for allowance.

Claim 37 has been amended to be in independent form, including the limitations formerly recited in claim 29. Therefore, claim 37 is in condition for allowance.

Since all independent claims are now in condition for allowance, the respective dependent claims are also in condition for allowance.

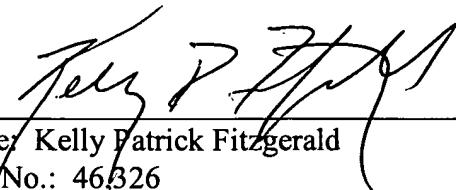
Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and prompt allowance of all pending claims. Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to deposit account number 50-1778. The Examiner is invited to telephone the below-signed attorney to discuss this application.

Date:

December 20, 2005

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